

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the abstract with the following amended abstract:

Amended Abstract (with markings):

ABSTRACT

In an embodiment, a method of blocking a return of products from a customer, includes: submitting, by the customer, an order to purchase a product from a vendor; shipping the purchased product to the customer; determining if a return of the purchased product should be approved or not be approved; and if the return of the purchased product is not approved, then blocking the return of the purchased product in order to prevent the return of the purchased product. ~~In another embodiment, an apparatus for blocking a return of products from a customer, includes: a product return blocking system configured to receive an order to purchase a product by a customer, determine if a return of the purchased product should be approved or not be approved, and block the return of the purchased product in order to prevent the return of the purchased product if the return of the purchased product is not approved.~~

Amended Abstract (without markings):

ABSTRACT

In an embodiment, a method of blocking a return of products from a customer, includes: submitting, by the customer, an order to purchase a product from a vendor; shipping the purchased product to the customer; determining if a return of the purchased product should be approved or not be approved; and if the return of the purchased product is not approved, then blocking the return of the purchased product in order to prevent the return of the purchased product.

Please replace the "Technical Field" section on page 1 of the specification with the following amended Technical Field section:

Amended Technical Field section (with markings):

TECHNICAL FIELD

Embodiments of the present invention relate generally to blocking of product returns ~~customer orders~~. More particularly, embodiments of the present invention relate to an apparatus and process for blocking product returns.

Amended Technical Field section (without markings):

TECHNICAL FIELD

Embodiments of the present invention relate generally to blocking of product returns. More particularly, embodiments of the present invention relate to an apparatus and process for blocking product returns.